

dollar foolish and it defies common logic in this post-9–11 environment. Instead of accurately identifying the new mission and then deciding on the best possible helicopter to carry it out, it is an example of shrinking the mission to fit the assets on hand. The Department of Homeland Security requires a new and larger state-of-the-art cutter-deployed helicopter to meet the growing challenge. Rebuilding a twenty year old helicopter is simply not acceptable. The Coast Guard should move quickly to initiate a competition to procure a modern technology Multi-Mission Cutter Helicopter and related Airborne Use of Force assets that can also be used by Customs, Secret Service and the Border Patrol. Mr. Speaker, as you and others in this body know, I am a fiscal conservative who is always conscious of how we in Washington spend taxpayer dollars. I have also always been a strong advocate for the Coast Guard and believe that this branch of our military service is a big bang for the taxpayer buck. Given the 100 percent success of the current HITRON fleet, I believe this would be one of the most effective and cost-efficient ways to address the enormous vulnerabilities that continue to exist along our nation's coastlines and in our ports and waterways.

APPLAUD AMERICA'S LOCAL
BROADCAST STATIONS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud America's local broadcast stations for a program they recently launched to assist the families of our men and women in uniform who are fighting the war on terrorism abroad.

As of today, there are more than 140,000 active-duty and reserve personnel serving our great Nation in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world.

I have the privilege of representing the soldiers stationed at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, the 5th Special Forces Group, and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. The men and women of these premier Army units have been deployed for extensive periods of time, often with little or no break between deployments.

For the families left behind, these extended separations can be trying not only emotionally, but financially as well. In many cases, the primary "bread winner" is the person sent overseas, leaving wives and children to cope with unexpected expenses.

The National Association of Broadcasters and its 6,000 radio station and 1,000 television station members recently partnered with the Armed Forces Relief Trust (AFRT) to help raise funds for those families that are facing financial challenges. The AFRT solicits contributions and then disburses interest-free loans and grants to family members of deployed personnel who are in need. To support this effort, the broadcasters produced and are voluntarily airing Public Service Announcements, so that AFRT can assist even more families in need.

The AFRT provides important services. They may provide assistance so a soldier can

fly home to attend their father's funeral. The services may include a special reading program for a sailor's daughter. They may assist with special medical attention for a pilot's spouse, or college tuition for a Marine's child.

Mr. Speaker, our fighting men and women and their families are sacrificing a great deal on our behalf. It is the duty of all Americans to provide comfort and assistance in any way they can.

I extend a special thanks to the radio and television station owners who are calling attention to this important cause. They are providing an important public service and I commend them for their efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 17, 2003, I was unable to record my vote on three resolutions under suspension of the rules, and one motion changing the hour of meeting. My unavoidable absence was due to the fact that I was hosting an important forum on Chronic Wasting Disease in Wisconsin with federal and state leaders.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted the following:

Roll call #620: Yes, Roll call #621: Yes, Roll call #622: Yes, Roll call #623: Yes.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF SIMHA LAINER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. SHERMAN and I rise today to pay tribute to our good friend, Simha Lainer who will be celebrating his 100th birthday at a dinner and reception hosted by the New Community Jewish High School on Sunday, December 14, 2003. Simha has been a cornerstone of the Jewish community in Los Angeles for many years, and he continues to play an active role in the promotion of Jewish education and many other worthy causes.

Simha was born in the Ukraine. As a young man, he spent time in the Middle East, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, and Mexico. He immigrated to the United States with his family in 1951. Although he worked in the textile industry, and later in real estate, his passion has always been education.

Simha, along with his wife Sara (z"l) and his three remarkable sons Mark, Nahum and Luis, who in their own right have supported so many worthy causes, have pioneered efforts to make a Jewish education available to as many children as possible. In 1989, Simha and his family established the Simha and Sara Lainer Fund for Jewish Education. As a result of this fund, the Los Angeles Bureau of Jewish Education has provided financial aid to many students that otherwise would have been unable to study the Torah. The fund has also provided Simha and his family an opportunity to honor religious schoolteachers and early

childhood educators for their hard work and dedication.

Simha has also provided critical leadership to promote upper levels of Jewish education. For example, he served on the Board of Directors at the University of Judaism, the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Community Foundation, and the Board of the West Coast Friends of Bar Ilan University. Simha is also the founder of the Western Region of American Friends of the Hebrew University.

In addition to his many educational achievements here in the United States, Simha has also displayed an unwavering commitment to the establishment and maintenance of Israeli institutions of education. Thanks to his leadership and vision, thousands of Israeli and American children will be prepared to lead productive lives and promote religious and cultural tolerance.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in saluting Simha for all of his outstanding contributions and to wish him a happy 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING CHESTER COUNTY
CHAPTER 377 OF THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FED-
ERAL EMPLOYEES

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chester County Chapter 377 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees and all of its members on the 50th anniversary of its founding.

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), an organization of former workers of the United States government, was established in 1921 and has grown to over 420,000 members—each of whom is affiliated with one of 1,591 chapters nationwide. They perform an advocacy role at the national level in promoting and protecting the annuity and health insurance rights of all former employees. It also provides significant services to all United States government retirees by aiding them in understanding and utilizing their individual rights under current directives.

Much like other national advocacy groups, NARFE is separated into state organizations which are further subdivided into a number of local chapters based on population and geography. In Pennsylvania, there is a statewide federation of approximately 22,000 members who likewise are affiliated with Chester County Chapter 377 or one of the 56 other local chapters.

The Chester County Chapter 377 of NARFE encompasses the entire county and has a membership of over 400 retirees. The Chapter holds ten meetings a year hosting outside speakers on a variety of issues important to its members. I am honored to be speaking at their 50th Anniversary luncheon on December 2, 2003. In addition to the meetings, NARFE members are informed on retirement issues through a national monthly magazine and from periodic chapter newsletters.

I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Chester County Chapter 377 of the National Association of Retired Federal

Employees, its President Stewart F. Taylor, and all of its members on the 50th Anniversary of the its founding. Half a century of hard work and dedication has led to great success in protecting the benefits of retired federal employees in Chester County, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and across the United States.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF RETIRED BRIGADIER GENERAL
PAUL ROBERSON

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of retired Brigadier General Paul Roberson. Today, Paul was brought to his final resting place at our Nation's most hallowed ground, Arlington National Cemetery. Our friend and colleague now rests with America's national heroes.

Although born a Californian, Paul's first assignment as an Air Force officer brought him to Texas, and he spent much of his career in the San Antonio area. A veteran of the Vietnam War, Paul's military honors included the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After a long, distinguished career with the United States Air Force, Paul led efforts in San Antonio to avoid the closure of Kelly AFB during the 1995 BRAC process. With the BRAC decision to close and realign Kelly AFB, Paul wasted no time in working to transform the largest base to be closed in the BRAC process into a productive and vibrant center for aerospace maintenance and international trade. Under his leadership, Kelly AFB became KellyUSA, which now boasts thousands of new jobs and a bright future as a leading industrial and trade center in South Texas. He has left a legacy of success.

Creating KellyUSA was no easy task, and Paul approached it with both determination and optimism. I worked closely with Paul during these years after I came to Congress. Paul always had his list of priority action items and gently, but firmly, made his case. He met obstacles resolutely and with confidence. More often, he welcomed success with humility and appreciation. This is how I will remember Paul.

Paul leaves behind a loving family and a community in San Antonio which he helped shape for the future. We all owe Paul our thanks and appreciation for his life of service to our Nation, to the United States Air Force, to KellyUSA, and to the people of San Antonio. Paul made public service an art, and we all thank him for the tapestry of his life's work.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT GLOCKNER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Glockner, a distinguished Cali-

fornian, as he receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award. This award, named for the foundress of the Society of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, honors individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton, over a significant period of time. Sacred Heart Schools founded in 1897, includes St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart and Sacred Heart Preparatory.

Robert Glockner, Trustee Emeritus, became involved with Sacred Heart School in 1975 when the first of his four daughters to graduate from Sacred Heart Preparatory enrolled in the school. In 1976 he was asked to serve on the Advisory Board that later became the governing Board of Trustees. Mr. Glockner served as the Chair of the School's first major capital campaign and helped to raise \$3.5 million and funded the completion of the McGanney Gymnasium. From 1984 to 1986 he served as Chair of the Board. For his determination and leadership during his twelve years on the Board he was named Trustee Emeritus, a distinction bestowed on only two other Board members.

I'm exceedingly proud to honor his work, his values, and his commitment to Sacred Heart Schools. He is a model for others to emulate and his leadership will touch generations of students to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Robert Glockner as he receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award for his extraordinary contributions to Sacred Heart Schools.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1588,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, when this House voted on H.R. 1588 in May, I voted against it. I didn't think the bill as it stood then was one I could endorse. The conference report that we are considering today is marginally better. Although I still have strong reservations, I will support the conference report.

We are 2 years into our war on terrorism and still engaged in military action in Iraq. There is no doubt that we must continue to focus on defending our homeland against terrorism, we must support our military personnel, and we must give our military the training, equipment, and weapons it needs to beat terrorism around the world.

That's why I'm in favor of provisions in the bill that support those men and women who have put their lives on the line in Afghanistan and Iraq. The bill provides an average 4.15 percent pay raise for service members, boosts military special pay and extends bonuses, and funds programs to improve living and working facilities on military installations.

I am pleased that the report includes provisions recognizing the importance of non-citizen soldiers and the many sacrifices and contributions they have made. The report eases the naturalization process for these soldiers and their families, reducing to one year the length of service requirement for naturalization

during peacetime; allowing soldiers to apply and take oaths for citizenship overseas; and granting permanent resident status to the surviving family of U.S. citizen soldiers who are granted posthumous citizenship as a result of death incurred in combat.

I'm also pleased that this bill will allow approximately one-third of eligible disabled military retirees to receive both their retirement and disability benefits. I would have preferred that the bill extend this "concurrent receipt" to all disabled retirees, but this is a great improvement on the bill the House considered earlier this year—which included no such provisions. I am also pleased that the bill extends the military's TRICARE health coverage to National Guard and reservists and their families if servicemembers have been called to active duty. These are all necessary and important provisions that I support.

I do have a number of serious reservations about the bill.

I don't believe it addresses 21st century threats as well as it could. With the exception of the Crusader artillery system, the Administration and Congress have continued every major weapons system inherited from previous administrations. So although the bill brings overall defense spending to levels 13 percent higher than the average Cold War levels, it doesn't present a coherent vision of how to realign our defense priorities.

The bill still includes provisions that would exempt the Department of Defense from compliance with some requirements under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). There is broad-based support for existing environmental laws—as there should be—and these laws already allow case-by-case flexibility to protect national security. The Pentagon has never sought to take advantage of this flexibility, so it strains belief that these laws are undermining our national security. Indeed, the General Accounting Office has found that training readiness remains high at military installations notwithstanding our environmental laws. I am not persuaded that the changes to these acts proposed by the military are justified.

The bill still includes worrisome provisions to overhaul DOD's personnel system. Although they are improved from the bill the House considered earlier this year, these provisions would still strip DOD's civilian employees of worker rights relating to due process, appeals, and collective bargaining.

Most disturbingly, the bill still includes provisions on nuclear weapons development. This bill provides funding to study the feasibility of developing nuclear earth-penetrating weapons and authorizes previously prohibited research on low-yield nuclear weapons. Low-yield nuclear weapons have an explosive yield of five kilotons or less—"only" a third of the explosive yield of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Our obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) require the United States to work towards nuclear disarmament, rather than further increase the size and diversity of our arsenal. By continuing the development of new U.S. nuclear weapons at the same time that we are trying to convince other nations to forego obtaining such weapons, we undermine our credibility in the fight to stop nuclear proliferation.

Mr. Speaker, I am very disappointed that this conference report rolls back civil service